

Appl. No. 10/680,352
Amdt. Dated January 30, 2008
Reply to Office Action Mailed December 12, 2007

REMARKS

These Remarks are in response to the Office action mailed December 12, 2007. Claims 1-9 remain pending in the application. Applicant appreciates Examiner's thorough search and careful review of the present application.

Double Patenting

Applicant would like to delay filing of a terminal disclaimer until such time (if any) that Examiner indicates that any of claims 1-9 are allowable under s.103. In this regard, Examiner's consent is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mattson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,687,713, hereinafter referred to as "Mattson") in view of Mehl Dahl (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0055289) and further in view of Hamilton (U.S. Patent 6,968,316).

Applicant respectfully traverses and requests reconsideration and removal of the rejections and allowance of the claims, as follows:

Claims 1-4

Claim 1 recites in part:

'a basic information maintaining module for adding, modifying, searching and deleting basic information, wherein the basic information maintaining module comprises *an account group maintaining device for grouping accounts according to main accounts or subsidiary accounts*'.

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Applicant submits that none of Mattson, Mehldahl, and Hamilton, whether taken alone or in combination, teaches or otherwise suggests the invention having the above-highlighted features as currently set forth in claim 1.

Mattson discloses that a system integrates data from a plurality of mainframe computers, and creates a web-enabled information site (see FIG. 2, and col. 4, lines 50-64). It is understood that integrating data by the system of Mattson means gathering data from a plurality of computers, and the created web-enabled information site involves providing the integrated data via the web. That is, what the system of Mattson does is to gather dispersive data and provide the data for others. However, Mattson fails to teach or suggest *how* to process the data, which may include adding, modifying, searching and deleting data. Accordingly, Mattson does not teach or suggest the feature of *"a basic information maintaining module for adding, modifying, searching and deleting basic information"*, as recited in claim 1 of the present application.

Mattson also discloses a screen appears that lists all state budget issues alphabetically for a current fiscal year (see col. 6, lines 33-37). Mattson further discloses an additional feature of the system is the capability for "drilling down" each budget issue and display further divisions, or line items, under a selected budget issue (see col. 6, lines 42-45).

It can be concluded that the purpose of drilling down each budget issue as taught by Mattson is to list or display further divisions of each budget, wherein the divisions may be shown in alphabetical order. However, the "grouping accounts" feature in claim 1 is to *classify* existing accounts into a plurality of groups. That is, the claimed function of "grouping accounts ..." is patentably distinct from all of the types of divisions taught or suggested by Mattson. Furthermore, the present

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grouped accounts are convenient for calculating balances and generating individualized statements (see para. [0015] on pages 5-6 of the present specification). Accordingly, Mattson fails to teach or suggest the feature of *"an account group maintaining device for grouping accounts according to main accounts or subsidiary accounts"*, as recited in claim 1 of the present application.

Furthermore, Mehldahl and Hamilton, whether considered alone or in combination with each other and/or with Mattson, do not teach or suggest the above-highlighted features either.

Claim 1 also recites in part:

'a journal voucher registering module for registering journal vouchers according to source materials generated during business activities; [and]

a carrying forward module for automatically carrying forward accounts and data of journal vouchers to corresponding accounts of a ledger, and generating debit or credit balances of accounts'.

Applicant submits that none of Mattson, Mehldahl, and Hamilton, whether taken alone or in combination, teaches or otherwise suggests the invention having the above-highlighted features as set forth in claim 1.

Mattson discloses a state budgeting system that provides expense data on contract information and expense type for a state accounting system. The state accounting system provides personnel data, such as salary, title, location etc, for a state personnel system (see FIG. 2, and col. 5 lines 4-17). Mattson further discloses that a user may select an "accounting" portion and drill down to view business processes (see col. 7 lines 28-34). Further, on page 4 of the Office action, it is stated that Examiner interprets "state budget system provide[s] data for [the] accounted [sic] system" means that

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data is "credited into personnel, purchasing and investment activities as per standard general ledger and journal entry practices".

From the above-mentioned and cited disclosures of Mattson, the state budgeting system and the state accounting system described by Mattson only teach the function of providing or transmitting data from one system to another system. For example, purchasing data and investment data, along with budgeting, accounting, and personnel systems, feed into an integrated financial management system (see col. 5 lines 15-17).

However, Mattson does not provide any teaching or suggestion regarding a function of *registering journal vouchers according to source materials generated during business activities*. The present journal voucher registering is distinct from any kinds of systems disclosed by Mattson. Therefore, the presently claimed function of registering journal vouchers is patentably different from the information or systems provided by Mattson. Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion in Mattson about "*generating debit or credit balances of accounts*", as recited in claim 1. In this regard, applicant respectfully traverses the characterization of Mattson's teachings made on page 4 of the Office action and particularly on page 12 of the Office action. On page 12 of the Office action, it is stated that "... Mattson et al. teach creating [a] budget from scratch or using [a] prior budget ... which *could* involve account processing including debit and credit of account balances from prior budget years ..." (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully submits this reasoning amounts to little more than mere speculation, and Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of anticipation or obviousness of the claimed feature.

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Accordingly, Mattson fails to teach or suggest the features of *'a journal voucher registering module for registering journal vouchers according to source materials generated during business activities; [and] a carrying forward module for automatically carrying forward accounts and data of journal vouchers to corresponding accounts of a ledger, and generating debit or credit balances of accounts'*, as set forth in claim 1. Furthermore, Mehldahl and Hamilton, whether considered alone or in combination with each other and/or with Mattson, do not teach or suggest the above-highlighted features as set forth in claim 1 either.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is unobvious and patentable over Mattson in view of Mehldahl, and further in view of Hamilton under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and removal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 are requested.

Dependent claims 2-4 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, and respectively recite additional subject matter. Thus, claims 2-4 should also be allowable.

Claims 5-8

Claim 5 recites in part:

'obtaining accounts and data from the external financial system and entering the accounts and data to corresponding columns of journal vouchers automatically, if there is an external financial system; [and] carrying forward accounts and data of journal vouchers to corresponding accounts of a ledger, and generating debit or credit balances of accounts'.

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Claim 5 is a method claim corresponding to the budget and financial analysis system of claim 1. Referring to and incorporating herein the above-asserted reasons regarding the patentability of claim 1, applicant submits that Mattson, Mehldahl, and Hamilton, whether taken alone or in combination, do not teach or otherwise suggest the invention having the above-highlighted features as set forth in claim 5. Accordingly, claim 5 is unobvious and patentable over Mattson in view of Mehldahl, and further in view of Hamilton under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and removal of the rejection and allowance of claim 5 are requested.

Dependent claims 6-8 depend directly from independent claim 5, and respectively recite additional subject matter. Thus, claims 6-8 should also be allowable.

Claim 9

Claim 9 recites in part:

'means for grouping accounts according to main accounts or subsidiary accounts;

means for registering journal vouchers according to source materials generated during business activities; [and]

means for automatically carrying forward accounts and data of journal vouchers to corresponding accounts of a ledger, and generating debit or credit balances of accounts'.

For at least reasons similar to those asserted above in relation to claims 1 and 5, with due alteration of details, applicant asserts that claim 9 is unobvious and patentable over Mattson in view of Mehldahl, and further in view of Hamilton under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and removal of the rejection and allowance of claim 9 are requested.

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In view of the above remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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